

1075-1076

1912 Dates J-BK

England

Mystery of women barons  
in England was soon quelled.

1075

Henry IV defeated the Saxons.  
Gregory VII issued a decree  
against lay investiture.

Henry declared Gregory VII deposed  
Gregory VII excommunicated  
Henry IV and declared him  
deposed.

1075

## Papacy Banned Lay Investiture

A ban issued by Pope Gregory VII in 1075 on the nomination, or investiture, of bishops and abbots in the Roman Church by secular landlords and rulers, or lay patrons, brought the "investiture contest" to a head. The double claim of the Papacy, that ① in all spiritual matters the clergy was superior to the laity and that ② in temporal affairs the papacy was a monarchy; were novel. In the days of the Western Empire there had been no suggestion that the clergy was not

aneverable to lay magistrates, even in spiritual matters.  
Nor was the Roman Church originally a monarchy: the  
bishops of Rome was one among many, and Rome was  
no greater a see than Antioch, Alexandria, Hippo, etc.  
But the Muslims swept them away, and, though the  
primacy of the eastern emperor was officially acknow-  
ledged, Rome had grown in self esteem. Gregory's son  
which came in the midst of a flurry of reform in  
the Church against corruption sought to secure for  
its clergy, under authority of the papacy, control  
of an independent monarchical Church. This  
ambition was a challenge to the Eastern Emperor  
who continued to follow the old system and was  
denounced by Rome as a schismatic. More im-  
portant, it was a challenge to the European kings  
who believed they had inherited the authority of the  
venerated Roman emperors.

1075

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Outbreak of conflict between  
emperor Henry IV (1056-1106)  
and the Papacy

1075

Rebellion of the Norman lords  
against William the  
Conqueror.